

## News Release

# UMC Advocates for University of Minnesota Area Health Education Center in Crookston

By Krista Lemos on Thursday, September 7, 2006

CROOKSTON, MN (September 7, 2006) – The Crookston community is vying for a University of Minnesota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) through a collaborative proposal spearheaded by the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC), RiverView Health, the city of Crookston and other healthcare partners in the area. The goal is to address health professional workforce challenges and promote educational opportunities here in Northwest Minnesota.

“Health care is an important issue in northwestern Minnesota, and the top concern is the shortage of healthcare professionals,” UMC Chancellor Charles H. Casey said. “As an educational leader and collaborator, UMC is in a position to advocate for solutions that will bring resources together and put plans into place to address the workforce needs and unique issues that rural Minnesota faces. We need this type of health education center here in our region.”

The University of Minnesota AHEC network is looking to expand its reach into Northwest Minnesota this fall 2006 and will consider proposals from three potential host communities, including Crookston, on September 15, 2006. The University of Minnesota AHEC network already covers the northeast, southern and central regions of Minnesota.

The Crookston proposal will be presented by UMC, RiverView, the city and area healthcare providers, and letters of support for the endeavor have been gathered from throughout the region. The proposal outlines partnerships with the University of Minnesota schools of dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, public health and veterinary medicine, other regional educational institutions, businesses and organizations as well as healthcare practitioners and providers.

Operated by the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, AHEC's mission is to support the health profession workforce needs of greater Minnesota through strong community-campus partnerships with academic institutions, healthcare agencies, communities and others committed to improving the health of the people of Minnesota.

As part of the University of Minnesota land-grant mission, the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) is committed to working with community partners to identify needs and service gaps and support efforts to tackle the challenges that exist. UMC delivers more than 24 different undergraduate degree programs in agriculture; arts, humanities, and social sciences; business; math, science, and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further, and dream big dreams. To learn more, visit [www.UMCrookston.edu](http://www.UMCrookston.edu).

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